

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 06912 021238 Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

NIC-01 RSR-01 /105 W

----- 084660

O R 021133 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2837

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC/POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6912

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, TH

SUBJECT: THANAT ALLEGATIONS

REF: A. STATE 081873

B. STATE 082434

1. SUMMARY: PRESS PLAY AND INQUIRIES RE THANAT' S
ARTICLE ON INTRODUCTION OF MARINES IN 1962 CONTINUED.
WE HAVE MADE RELEVANT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AVAILABLE TO AP AND
UPI ON BACKGROUND BASIS. BOTH PRIME KPMINISTER THANAM AND
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT HAVE COMMENTED ON
THANAT ALLEGATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS COVERAGE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND VERNACULAR
PAPERS CONTINUED HEAVY MAY 2 WITH PAPERS EITHER RE-
HASHING THANAT ALLEGATIONS OR REPORTING ON THANOM' S
COMMENTS REPORTED BELOW.

3. WE HAVE PROVIDED ON BACKGROUND BASIS TO AP AND UPI
REPS TEXT OF RTG AND USE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF
MAY 15, 1962.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 06912 021238 Z

4. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS DRAWN FROM TAPE OF PRIME MINISTER THANOM' S EXCHANGES WITH REPORTER ON MAY 1.

QUOTE... REPORTER: THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE IS THAT OUR SIDE DID NOT ASK THEM (THE US)... TO COME.
THANOM: NO. IT WAS AN AGREEMENT MADE WHEN SEATO WAS FORMED. AT THAT TIME SEATO AGREED TO COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER IN PREVENTING COMMUNIST AGGRESSION. THEREFORE, WHEN SUCH AN INCIDENT OCCURRED AND WE INFORMED THEM, THEY QUICKLY SENT SOLDIERS TO HELP PREVENT IT.
REPORTER: DID WE ASK THEM?
THANOM: WE INFORMED THEM AND IT WAS A MATTER IN WHICH WE ALLOWED THEM TO COME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN.
REPORTER: WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON THE THANAT ARTICLE?
THANOM: WE HAVE ISSUED SOME COMMENTS ABOUT THIS... THAT THEY SENT SOLDIERS IN 1961 (SIC) WITHOUT OUR REQUEST ... THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT IN THE SEATO TREATY. THEY HAD TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST IN COMMUNIST PREVENTION AND THEY CAME UNDER THAT AGREEMENT. END QUOTE.

5. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM TAPE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT' S EXCHANGE WITH REPORTERS MAY 2.

QUOTE... PRAPHAT: WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ASK?
REPORTER: WHAT THE FACTS ARE. WHO REQUESTED WHOM?
PRAPHAT: WELL, I' M NOT REALLY PREPARED. RECORDS ARE NEEDED ON THIS SUBJECT. IT' S DIFFICULT TO SAY. I HAVE TO LOOK AT THE RECORDS. YOU ASK ME ABOUT SOMETHING WHICH HAPPENED FOUR (SIC) YEARS AGO. HOW CAN I REMEMBER IT? THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER.
REPORTER: ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, BEFORE THE AMERICANS MADE THE REQUEST THEY SENT THEIR AMBASSADOR TO INFORM OUR GOVERNMENT. WE AGREED, BUT ASKED THAT THEY ISSUE A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE REQUEST WAS MADE BY THE USG. BUT INSTEAD, THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY WASHINGTON SAID THE REQUEST WAS MADE BY THE RTG...
PRAPHAT... IT HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN THAT THAILAND HAS ASKED THE U. S. TO SEND GI' S OR HER FORCES HERE. BECAUSE WE HAVE A MILITARY AGREEMENT WITH THE U. S., WHEN EITHER SIDE TAKES ANY ACTION WHICH INVOLVES DISPATCH OF TROOPS, IT MUST KEEP THE OTHER SIDE INFORMED. BUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 06912 021238 Z

SITUATIONS IN THAILAND HAVE NOT BEEN SUCH THAT WE HAVE REQUEST TO U. S. TO SEND TROOPS INTO OUR COUNTRY. SUCH A SITUATION HAS NEVER OCCURRED. THANAT MAY BE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS ABOUT THIS MATTER BEST SINCE HE WAS THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND PROBABLY THE ONE WHO MADE THE BARGAIN. IF THERE WAS SUCH AN ERROR, THEN THANAT OUGHT TO HAVE PROTESTED FOUR (SIC) YEARS AGO RATHER THAN WHEN

HE IS NO LONGER FOREIGN MINISTER... IF THERE WERE
ANY MISTAKES THEN THE MATTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROTESTED
AT THE TIME SINCE IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY OF
THANAT. END QUOTE.

6. THESE MUDDIED STATEMENTS TO LITTLE TO CLEAR THE AIR
HERE. HOWEVER AS REPORTED IN FBIS BANGKOK 01142 1 Z,
BANGKOK DOMESTIC SERVICE IN THAI IS REPORTING THAT THE
PRIME MINISTER SAID THE MARINES WERE SENT " UNDER THE
SEATO TREATY. THE UNITED STATES SENT THE MARINES IN
RESPONSE TO THAILAND' S REQUEST FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST
DRIVE ON THA KHEK."
UNGER

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO06912
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730533/aaaahkcr.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.STATE 081873, B.STATE 082434
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <20-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971117
Subject: THANAT ALLEGATIONS
TAGS: MOPS, TH
To: CINCPAC/ POLAD
EA
SECSTATE WASHDC
VIENTIANE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005